

Mark Emmert (left), University of Washington president, Ann Daley, executive director of the HECB, and Jesus Hernandez, HECB chair, at the HECB meeting May 12 in Olympia.



UW president: 'State crossed the Rubicon' with depth of higher education funding cuts

University of Washington president Mark Emmert, who met with the HECB and its Advisory Council May 12, said the Legislature had 'crossed the Rubicon' with respect to higher education funding in the 2009 session.

Emmert was referring to HECB budget charts showing that four of the state's six baccalaureate institutions will receive less money from the state for operating expenses than they do from tuition in 2009-2011.

The percent of the total state budget allocated to higher education has been in a long decline, and this year's budget cuts simply accelerated the pace of that decline, especially for the baccalaureate institutions, Emmert said.

"As these charts show, we have reached a point at the UW where the most reliable, predictable revenue source is tuition." [Read more.](#)

Legislators share views on higher education priorities with HECB, Advisory Council

Several legislators who play a prominent role in setting higher education policy shared their views on the 2009 session and the future of higher education funding at the Board's May 12, 2009 meeting held at the State Investment Board in Olympia.

Speaking were Sen. Derek Kilmer and Rep. Deb Wallace, chairs of the Senate and House Higher Education Committees respectively, Rep. Glenn Anderson, ranking minority member of the House Higher Education Committee, and Rep. Reuven Carlyle, a committee member. [Read more.](#)

System design plan work continues

Earl Hale, HECB member from Lacey who is co-chairing the System Design Study group, provided an overview of work being conducted by staff and partners on the plan, authorized in the 2009 legislative session.

Hale said the plan is the next logical step in implementing the recommendations of the 2008 Strategic Master Plan and that long-range planning remained a high priority for the state's four-year institutions, especially in a time of diminished resources.

"The focus of this project is mostly on bachelor's and graduate education...how to build out the capacity of the system to produce increased numbers of students with degrees," Hale said.

We're looking holistically at the implications of changing demographics and how these will affect the development of new campuses, branch campuses, centers and other initiatives, such as bachelor's degrees offered by community colleges, Hale said. [Read more.](#)

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

HECB approves UWT health leadership bachelor's degree



A new bachelor of arts in healthcare leadership was approved at the May HECB board meeting.

The new degree will serve lower-division students at the University of Washington Tacoma who are interested in health-related fields, as well as students who already have a technical degree in a health-related field. [More»](#)



GET committee votes to set \$101 unit price

The Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) committee established a unit price of \$101 for 2009-10. The price of a GET unit was \$76 during 2008-09. New GET units will be on sale September 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010.

The committee approved the increase to counter the effect of sharp tuition increases, and to place the fund on firmer actuarial footing.

Rep. Reuven Carlyle shared his vision for technology improvement in higher education at the HECB meeting May 12 in Olympia. Rep. Carlyle sponsored legislation creating a Technology Transformation Task force for higher education.



Rep. Carlyle urges institutions: 'Send your best people' to work on technology plan

Rep. Reuven Carlyle, a member of the House Higher Education Committee who sponsored a bill to create a Technology Transformation Task Force for higher education, said greater consistency is needed in 'back-end' administrative computing systems.

He said higher education has been focused on back-end systems, with each institution developing different solutions to a set of common needs. Instead, higher education needs to shift its thinking to the front end, he said.

"There is no reason today for 40 institutions to build or purchase and maintain 40 different commodity systems.

"Localization of control in higher education is important, but technology is not the place. I'm asking you to coordinate and build a strategy. Institutional silos that are inherent need to come down. Send your best people who wear their best hats."

The task force is charged with improving the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of education through the strategic use of technology. It will deliver an interim report in December 2009, and a final plan with recommendations in December 2010.

Rep. Carlyle also said the task force should discuss providing open courseware for all state higher education students.

"Why is it when taxpayers are paying for course development...and there is excellent course material developed at the University of Washington...why shouldn't someone from Gray's Harbor have access to it? "

Legislative session summary

Chris Thompson, director of government, college and university relations, provided a summary of major legislative actions affecting higher education and the HECB. As noted in previous HECB Updates, the Legislature directed the HECB and other entities to undertake studies and make recommendations on technology transformation, tuition flexibility, system design, and a student access portal.

In addition, the Legislature authorized the State Actuary's Office to conduct an audit of the Guaranteed Education Tuition program, and the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to conduct further analysis about performance agreements between the state and its baccalaureate institutions so that six-year agreements can be implemented in the next legislative session. [Read more.](#)

WASHINGTON HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD



Film contest taps student creativity to build a college-going culture among young people. Winners announced in fall and featured on YouTube.

[Read more.](#)

WICHE alert focuses on HECB report on Washington college transfer rates.

[Read more.](#)

Mark Your Calendar Next Board meeting

**9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Tuesday, June 23**

**WSU Compton Union
Building, Pullman**

**Check back after June 16
for agenda items at:**

www.hecb.wa.gov/boardmtgs/index.asp

On the preliminary agenda:

- System Design Plan update
- Revised accountability targets